

Claims

1. A medium for the detection and/or identification of a *Candida* yeast, the medium comprising: a chromogen; carbohydrate in the range 1-5gms/litre; and an alcohol; the medium being such that growth of the *Candida* yeast under appropriate conditions results in hydrolysis of the chromogen to generate a chromophore of a derived colour which is a different colour from that generated by hydrolysis of the chromogen in a standard medium which is essentially lacking an alcohol but otherwise identical to the medium of the invention.
2. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the chromogen is hydrolysed in the presence of *C. albicans* to give a chromophore with a derived colour.
3. A medium according to claim 2, comprising comprising carbohydrate in the range 2-4gms/litre.
4. A medium according to claim 3, comprising glucose.
5. A medium according to claim 1 comprising malt extract.
6. A medium according to claim 1, comprising an alcohol in the range 1-10mls/l.
7. A medium according to claim 6, comprising an alcohol in the range 2-8mls/l.
8. A medium according to claim 7, comprising an alcohol in the range 5-7mls/l.
9. A medium according to claim 1, comprising ethanol.
10. A medium according to claim 1 comprising 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl N-acetyl β -D-glucosaminide or 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate *p* toluidine salt or 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indolyl N-acetyl β -D glucosaminide or X-Gal NAc (wherein Gal is

galactose, NAc is an N-acetyl group and X is a chromophore) or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate *p* toluidine salt or 6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

11. A medium according to claim 1 comprising one or more of the following: malic acid; peptones; and KH_2PO_4 .
12. A method of detecting and/or identifying a *Candida* yeast in a sample, the method comprising the steps of: contacting the sample with a medium in accordance with claim 1; incubating the medium, under appropriate conditions, to allow growth of the *Candida* yeast; and detecting the presence of a chromophore having a derived colour indicative of the presence of the *Candida* yeast.
13. A method of detecting and/or identifying *C. albicans* in accordance with claim 12.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range 30-37°C for at least 24 hours.
15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range 30-35°C for at least 24 hours.
16. A method according to claim 15, which distinguishes between *C. albicans*, *C. tropicalis* and *C. krusei*.